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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/781,730

02/20/2004

Hannu J. Harjuhahto

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01/23/2007

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EXAMINER

EASHOO, MARK

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1732

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

01/23/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/781,730

Applicant(s)

HARJUHAHTO ET AL.

Examiner

Mark Eashoo, Ph.D.

Art Unit

1732

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 November 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9-11 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 12 and 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3 ea.</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION***Election/Restriction***

Applicant's election of claim group I, claims 1-8,12 and 13 in the reply filed on 08-NOV-2006 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)). It is noted that a mere statement that there is no serious burden on the Office does not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement.

Claims 9-11 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected claim grouping, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made without traverse in the reply filed on 08-NOV-2006.

Information Disclosure Statements

The information disclosure statements filed 20-FEB-2004, 14-JUN-2005, and 21-SEP-2005 comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP § 609. Accordingly, they have been placed in the application file and the information referred to therein has been considered as to the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Knaus (US Pat. 3,694,131).

Regarding claims 1-2: Knaus teaches the claimed process of extruding a thermoplastic material, comprising: introducing a modifying material to a surface portion of a stream of extrudable thermoplastic (5:65-6:55 and Fig. 5); physically separating a core stream and adding the modifying material to a boundary/surface stream which is then recombined with the core stream (Fig. 5).

Regarding claim 3: Knaus teaches the flow diverter is downstream of the primary molten flow from the extruder (5:65-6:55 and Fig. 5), therefore Knaus substantially teaches that the flow streams are recombined "generally near" the extrusion orifice/die.

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Regarding claims 4 and 12: Knaus teaches various modifying materials which would implicitly effect the viscosity of another material when mixed therewith (6:35-40 and 3:10-4:40).

Claims 5-8 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Knaus (US Pat. 3,694,131).

Regarding claims 5-6: Knaus teaches the claimed process of extruding a thermoplastic material, comprising: providing a primary/source molten flow of extrudable thermoplastic and advancing it toward an extrusion die/orifice(5:65-6:55 and Figs. 4-5); introducing a modifying material to a surface portion of a stream of extrudable thermoplastic (5:65-6:55 and Fig. 5); diverting a portion of a core stream and adding the modifying material to a boundary/surface stream which is then recombined with or applied to the core stream (Fig. 5).

Regarding claim 7: Knaus teaches the flow diverter is downstream of the primary molten flow from the extruder (5:65-6:55 and Fig. 5), therefore Knaus substantially teaches that the flow streams are recombined "before" the extrusion orifice/die.

Regarding claims 8 and 13: Knaus teaches various modifying materials which would implicitly effect the viscosity of another material when mixed therewith (6:35-40 and 3:10-4:40).

Correspondence


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Eashoo, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571) 272-1197. The examiner can normally be reached on 7am-3pm EST, Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Johnson can be reached on (571) 272-1176. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Mark Eashoo, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1732

me
19-Jan-07


15/Jan/07